



LOS ANGELES  
CACTUS  
AND  
SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY

# CACTUS CHRONICLE

June 2011

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Next Meeting: June 2, 2011

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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

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## Exploring *Gasteria* Hybrids and Cultivars with Tom Glavich

**Tom Glavich** is Vice President of CSSA and author of the Beginner's Guide series of articles in CSSA's *To the Point* newsletter. He is one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held each August at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. He is active in several Los Angeles area cactus and succulent societies, with his home club being the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society. He has been a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America since the early 1980s and was growing cactus and succulents for several years before that.



Tom will explore and discuss some of the common and more exotic hybrids and cultivars of *Gasteria*, and will include advice on successful cultivation and propagation techniques.

He will also look at growing and producing crests, variegates, monstrose plants (these are different types of plant mutations) and some of the unclassifiable oddities that are part of the succulent plant world.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is crazy how the year is flying by. We had a great meeting and turnout in May. It was an incredible presentation by Buck Hemenway on his trip to South Africa. His pictures gave us a realistic overview of his trips. Tim is doing a wonderful job of getting talented speakers to share their experiences with us as they travel the world of plants.

Thank you to everyone who brought in refreshments for May. It's nice to see such a sumptuous and wide variety of snacks. For the month of June members with that last name beginning with the letters A, B and C (such as Chavez) it's our opportunity to furnish our favorite snacks.

Well the June Show is almost here! This is our club's big event for the year. Members have been working very hard to make this the best show ever. We have a lot of new vendors, an indoor show, exterior exhibits, and our new venture on Sunday is "Kids Day." Our publicity team has been working hard to get the word out. We are hoping for a story in the Daily News on the club. We are excited about the Show being a huge success.

There are a couple of things we need from you; at the June meeting, there will be a sign up sheet for the show, dinner and auction. When you prepay for the dinner you will get a raffle ticket for a special drawing at the dinner (please see Kim Thorpe.) The cost is only \$21 per person. The menu is grilled chicken, tri tip, roasted potatoes, veggies, rice pilaf, salad, rolls and dessert. What a great deal!

The success of the show depends on our club's participation. We need volunteers to cover all the different events. There is something for everyone. Don't be shy and sign up. For those of you who enjoy seeing young people get hooked (no pun intended) on plants and gardening, this is your opportunity to get in there and teach them how to have fun with plants.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and the show.

Artie



**2011 DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL**  
**Water Wise - Money Wise**  
**Educational displays and plant sale**  
**Sponsored by: Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society**

**DATE — JUNE 11 (9:00-5:00) and June 12 (9:00-3:30) — Set Up Friday, June 10th**  
**PLACE—Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino**

**THEME— Drought Resistant Plant Festival -** To improve ways to fulfill the Club's mission statement of "education, conservation and the study of cacti and succulents". In the past our show and sale has concentrated on the educational aspect with our extremely successful informational exhibits. The current approach will be to educate and demonstrate how cacti and succulents have had all of these qualities long before it was necessary and how these plants fit into landscape design with other plants.

**SHOW AND SALE FORMAT—**The show will be divided into two distinct exhibitions. The show committee will be asking select members and vendors to build a landscaping exhibit. These exhibits will be located on the grass area. **All** members will be asked and encouraged to show their favorite plants in a traditional show located in the Garden Center building. As was the case last year, there will be an attendant at each landscape plot to answer questions along with signage to explain the exhibit.

Guest speakers will be invited to give talks on a variety of topics including the following potential topics; *container gardening, pest control and fertilization, native plants, child friendly gardens.*

**Vendors will be selling landscaping plants in addition to their usual merchandise.**

The Bromeliad Society will be an active participant in the Festival as they have been in the past.

**Of Special Importance:** Publicity is critical to the success of this Festival. Flyers, post cards, and email announcements will be distributed. Retail nurseries and other garden centers will also be contacted. *Involvement of all LACSS members is critical to the success of the Festival.*



## THE TIME IS DRAWING NEAR

The Indoor Display area is currently being designed for the **2011 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival** and do not want anyone to be left out. Our space is limited and we want everyone to participate. It is important that you let us know **now** that you will be preparing a display and how much table/counter space you need.

Please email John Martinez ([jwm5555@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwm5555@sbcglobal.net)) or Joyce Schumann ([ropojo@pacbell.net](mailto:ropojo@pacbell.net)) [or call Joyce 818-705-3224] with your plans. Again, the theme is of your choosing. Each display **must** include informational signage i.e area of origin, family relations, care needs, why is this your favorite plant, etc..

We are very excited about this year's Show and look forward to everyone participating in some capacity. The volunteer list will be available at the June Monthly Meeting.

We are looking forward to 3 days of fun for all (make that – work, but fun work!)

Thank you all in advance.  
Co-Chairs – John & Joyce



### Southern California Calendar of Events June

- 
- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| JUNE 4 & 5   | SAN DIEGO CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY<br>SUMMER SHOW AND SALE<br>BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA<br>INFO: 858-382-1797  |
| JUNE 4 & 5   | FRESNO CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY<br>SHOW AND SALE<br>SIERRA VISTA MALL<br>1060 SHAW AVENUE, CLOVIS, CA 93612<br>INFO: NICK DEINHART – 559-801-4232<br>TOM MEYER – 559-283-7937 |
| JUNE 11 & 12 | LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY<br>PLANT SHOW AND SALE 11 <sup>th</sup> 9-5, 12 <sup>th</sup> 9-3:30<br>SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.                    |

## *Plant-of-the-Month* 2011

January	Gymnocactus and Ortegocactus	Aloe hybrids
February	Mammillaria (single head)	Dudleya
March	Echinocereus	Asclepiads -caudiciform and tuberous forms
April	Gymnocalycium (multiple heads)	Sansevieria
May	Epiphytes	Echeveria
June	Turbinicarpus and Frailea	Mesembs(other than Lithops and Conophytum) e.g. Pleiospilios, Lapidaria
July	Tephrocactus	Adenia
August	Brazilian cacti	Pachypodium (African species)
September	Ferocactus	Euphorbia (stem forms)
October	Ariocarpus	Terrestrial Bromeliads
November	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
December	<b><i>Holiday Party</i></b>	

**Entry Classes:** All new members, new to the hobby, should enter plants in the Novice class. Novices must move to the Advanced class after they have won a total of 40 first place awards in the Plant of the Month competition or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

**Prizes:** All prizes are awarded at the Holiday Celebration in December. Trophies are awarded by entry class for those members who scored the most points in either the cacti or combined succulent categories. In the Novice and Advanced classes the top two scorers in each of the plant categories will also receive a prize (typically a plant). These prizes are awarded based on the total number of points scored during the year. Finally, a trophy is awarded to members, regardless of class, who have earned the most points in the cactus and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

**Entry Requirements:** All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 plants. In the Advanced and Open Classes, members must have been in possession of their plants for at least one year. Those members showing in the Novice class may immediately enter a recently obtained plant. You can only enter plants that conform to the Plant of the Month schedule described above.

Judging Scale*		Points Awarded	
Condition	50%	First	5
Size and Maturity	25%	Second	3
Staging	20%	Third	1
Nomenclature	5%	Entry Award**	1

\* Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners.

\*\* Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

## Plant of the Month - May Winners

### Novice Division

#### Succulent - Echeveria

Award	Name	Plant
First	Kim Thorpe	Echeveria 'Mauna Loa'
Second	Kim Thorpe	Echeveria sp. Crest
Third	None	

#### Cactus - Epiphytes

First	Kim Thorpe	Rhipsalidopsis gaertherti
Second	Kim Thorpe	Rhipsalis baccifera ssp. Maurit ana
Third	None	

### Advanced Division

#### Succulent - Echeveria

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Hall	Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'
Second	None	
Third	None	

#### Cactus - Epiphytes

None

### Open Division

#### Succulent - Echeveria

First	Artie Chavez	Echeveria sp.
Second	Artie Chavez	Echeveria sp.
Third	None	

#### Cactus - Epiphytes

none

## LACSS 2011 Board Members

**Artie Chavez, President**  
**Tim Harvey, VP, Programs**  
**Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month**  
**Doug George, VP, Special Events**  
**Ronit Weiss, Treasurer**  
**Helen Frank, Secretary**  
**Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor**

## Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cacti of the Month June 2011 - *Frailea and Turbinicarpus*

The genus *Frailea* is endemic to South America and can be found in Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. They are typically attractive small globose plants that don't exceed two inches in diameter. This genus can be a solitary grower or form cluster depending on the species. *Frailea* were named from a Spaniard, Manuel Fraile, who spent numerous years maintaining the U.S. Department of Agriculture cactus collection. The spines on *Frailea* are short and feeble compared to other members of the cactucea family. *Frailea* often produce a yellow flower which can be larger than the body of the plant itself. They bloom during the heat of the day for just a few hours before they retreat. *Frailea* are known as cleistogamous plants meaning that the flower often times will not emerge from the plant body and will actually self-pollinate inside the specimen.



***Frailea phaeodisca* from south of Pedras Altas country side**



***Frailea castanea***



***Frailea mammifera***

*Turbinicarpus* is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, *Neolloydia*, and *Gymnocactus*, and *Strombocactus* being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either *Neolloydia* or

*Gymnocactus*. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.



**Turbinicarpus subterraneus**

All of the *Turbinicarpus* species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, *Turbinicarpus* usually grow under the protection of larger plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid day sun. *Turbinicarpus* have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.

*Turbinicarpus* are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering has to start slowly. If too much water and fertilizer is given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is going (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.



**Turbinicarpus schwarzii**

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great way for vegetative propagation. *Turbinicarpus* can be raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Producing clumps as shown above will take quite a bit longer.



**Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society**  
**Succulents of the Month June 2011 *Other Mesembs -***  
***Aloinopsis, Carruanthus, Dinteranthus, Lapidaria, Pleiospilos***

The Mesembryanthemaceae comprise a distinctive component of South Africa's flora; 63 percent of the succulent plant life and 10 percent of all plant life. Bright colorful flowers are characteristic of these diminutive plants. The best known of the Mesembs are Conophytums and Lithops, although the group consists of 127 genera. This article will focus on the five genera described in the title.

*Dinteranthus* come from a very small region near but not on the West Coast of South Africa. They resemble *Lithops* in their outward appearance. They are more spherical than *Lithops*, but have the same types of variation of surface texture and color, although without the tremendous variation that are seen in *Lithops*. Most are various shades of white, light beige and gray. *Dinteranthus* need a period of summer dormancy. Attempts to water them during their dormant period will almost certainly result in rot. Seed germination is done in very late summer, when the weather is hot. This gives the seedlings a chance to grow through the winter, building enough storage for the next summer dormancy. They are sensitive to over-watering, even when in full growth, and need a quick draining (low humus) mixture. *Dinteranthus* are often thought of as a 'challenging' genera, but like most horticultural challenges, one well worth mastering. All the species are worth growing. Two of the best are *D. pole-evansii* and *D. vanzylii*.



***Dinteranthus vanzylii***

*Lapidaria* grows in an even smaller area, entirely enveloped by the *Dinteranthus* habitat. The plant was once included in *Dinteranthus*, but the seeds and number of active leaf pairs per branch are not consistent with the *Dinteranthus* genus. Seedlings resemble *Lithops* seedlings more than *Dinteranthus*. The main growing season is autumn, and it too is sensitive to over-watering, particularly in the heat of the summer. There is only one species, *L. margaretae*, and only minor variations in body shape and color with locality. As with almost all the monotypic genera, the one species is a spectacular plant.



***Lapidaria margaretae***

Aloinopsis is a genus endemic to South Africa. This plant forms dense clusters of rosettes. The leaves are small pebble-like beads of green that are textured. *Aloinopsis schoonesii* is one of the best know of this genus. It produces a daisy-like yellowish-bronze flower that opens at mid-day. This plant also generates a tuberous root system (also known as a tap root) that ultimately forms a caudex which further enhances the quality of this delightful mesemb. This genus will flourish in filtered sun (bright light at a minimum).



***Aloinopsis schoonesii***

The genus *Carruanthus* consists of two species; *C. peersii* and *C. ringens* which are found in the Eastern and Western portions of Cape South Africa. *C. ringens* possesses toothed leaves which is not the case with *C. peersii*. As do other Mesembs, these plants produce yellow daisy-like flowers in the spring. *Carruanthus* are subject to rot so a porous well-drained soil mix is a must.



***Carruanthus peersii***

The last of the five genera to be discussed in this article is *Pleiospilos*. This genus is known to have between 20 to 40 species that can be found in South Africa. One of the most common plants belonging to this genus is *Pleiospilos nelii* also known as the split-rock. The name *Pleiospilos* comes from the Greek word for many specks. The succulent stems are gray-green in color covered with many dark spots. This plant is often submerged in habitat. This plant requires some shade especially in warmer temperatures.



***Pleiospilos nelii***

**General Meeting** starts at 7:00 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.  
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society *ONLINE* at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

Upcoming Program for June:

Tom Glavich

First Class Mail

**Next Meeting: June 2, 2011**  
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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